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**CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

- 1    1.    A method in a data processing system for presenting  
2    status information associated with a hierarchical  
3    operation, the method comprising the steps of:  
4        displaying a plurality of status indicators in a  
5    view, each status indicator of the plurality of status  
6    indicators indicating a status of a particular  
7    hierarchical operation, said particular hierarchical  
8    operation being performed for a corresponding one of said  
9    each status indicator; and  
10        arranging said plurality of said status indicators  
11    in a Z-order layering in said view.
- 1    2.    The method of Claim 1, wherein said view comprises a  
2    window.
- 1    3.    The method of Claim 1, wherein said view comprises a  
2    dialog box.
- 1    4.    The method of Claim 1, wherein the hierarchical  
2    operation comprises a copy operation.
- 1    5.    The method of Claim 1, wherein the hierarchical  
2    operation comprises an operation for copying a plurality  
3    of data files.
- 1    6.    The method of Claim 1, wherein the hierarchical  
2    operation comprises an operation for copying at least one

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3 file from at least one of a directory and a sub-directory  
4 associated with said directory.

1 7. The method of Claim 1, wherein said particular  
2 hierarchical operation comprises an operation for copying  
3 at least one file from a category within a hierarchical  
4 structure.

1 8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the hierarchical  
2 operation comprises at least one of an operation for  
3 copying elements of a directory tree, installing  
4 software, and scanning digital files for at least one  
5 virus.

1 9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the arranging step  
2 comprises the step of arranging said plurality of said  
3 status indicators in a circular pattern.

1 10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the arranging step  
2 comprises the step of arranging each said status  
3 indicator of said plurality of status indicators in a  
4 circular pattern, each said status indicator of said  
5 plurality of status indicators defined in said view by an  
6 inner diameter, an outer diameter and a length, whereby  
7 said length is associated with said status of said  
8 particular hierarchical operation.

1 11. The method of Claim 1, wherein the arranging step  
2 comprises the step of arranging each said status  
3 indicator of said plurality of status indicators in a

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4 circular pattern, each said status indicator of said  
5 plurality of status indicators defined in said view by an  
6 inner diameter, an outer diameter and a length, whereby  
7 said length is associated with said status of said  
8 particular hierarchical operation, said inner diameter  
9 and said outer diameter defining a width for said each  
10 said status indicator, whereby said width is adjustable  
11 for at least one of said each said status indicator so as  
12 to maintain a substantially constant diameter for said  
13 circular pattern.

1 12. The method of Claim 1, wherein said data processing  
2 system comprises at least one of a server and a client  
3 processing unit.

1 13. The method of Claim 1, wherein a control of at least  
2 one step of the method comprises a control by a GUI.

1 14. A data processing system for presenting status  
2 information associated with a hierarchical operation,  
3 comprising:  
4 a processor;  
5 a memory connected to said processor; and  
6 a set of instructions included in said memory, said  
7 processor configured to execute said set of instructions  
8 to perform the following steps:  
9 display a plurality of status indicators in a view,  
10 each status indicator of the plurality of status  
11 indicators indicating a status of a particular  
12 hierarchical operation;

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13           perform said particular hierarchical operation for a  
14   corresponding one of said each status indicator; and  
15           arrange said plurality of said status indicators in  
16   a Z-order layering in said view.

1   15.   The data processing system of Claim 14, wherein said  
2   view comprises a window.

1   16.   The data processing system of Claim 14, wherein said  
2   view comprises a dialog box.

1   17.   The data processing system of Claim 14, wherein the  
2   hierarchical operation comprises a copy operation.

1   18.   The data processing system of Claim 14, wherein the  
2   hierarchical operation comprises an operation for copying  
3   a plurality of data files.

1   19.   The data processing system of Claim 14, wherein the  
2   hierarchical operation comprises an operation for copying  
3   at least one file from at least one of a directory and a  
4   sub-directory associated with said directory.

1   20.   The data processing system of Claim 14, wherein said  
2   particular hierarchical operation comprises an operation  
3   for copying at least one file from a category within a  
4   hierarchical structure.

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1 21. The data processing system of Claim 14, wherein the  
2 hierarchical operation comprises at least one of an  
3 operation for copying elements of a directory tree,  
4 installing software, and scanning digital files for at  
5 least one virus.

1 22. The data processing system of Claim 14, wherein the  
2 instruction to arrange comprises instruction to arrange  
3 said plurality of said status indicators in a circular  
4 pattern.

1 23. The data processing system of Claim 14, wherein the  
2 instruction to arrange comprises instruction to arrange  
3 each said status indicator of said plurality of status  
4 indicators in a circular pattern, each said status  
5 indicator of said plurality of status indicators defined  
6 in said view by an inner diameter, an outer diameter and  
7 a length, whereby said length is associated with said  
8 status of said particular hierarchical operation.

1 24. The data processing system of Claim 14, wherein the  
2 instruction to arrange comprises instruction to arrange  
3 each said status indicator of said plurality of status  
4 indicators in a circular pattern, each said status  
5 indicator of said plurality of status indicators defined  
6 in said view by an inner diameter, an outer diameter and  
7 a length, whereby said length is associated with said  
8 status of said particular hierarchical operation, said  
9 inner diameter and said outer diameter defining a width  
10 for said each said status indicator, whereby said width

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11 is adjustable for at least one of said each said status  
12 indicator so as to maintain a substantially constant  
13 diameter for said circular pattern.

1 25. The data processing system of Claim 14, wherein said  
2 data processing system comprises at least one of a server  
3 and a client processing unit.

1 26. The data processing system of Claim 14, wherein a  
2 control of at least one step of the instructions  
3 comprises a control by a GUI.

1 27. A computer program product on a computer readable  
2 medium, said computer program product comprising:  
3 first instructions for displaying a plurality of  
4 status indicators in a view, each status indicator of the  
5 plurality of status indicators indicating a status of a  
6 particular hierarchical operation, said particular  
7 hierarchical operation being performed for a  
8 corresponding one of said each status indicator; and  
9 second instructions for arranging said plurality of  
10 said status indicators in a Z-order layering in said  
11 view.

1 28. The computer program product of Claim 27, wherein  
2 the second instructions comprise sub-instructions for  
3 arranging each said status indicator of said plurality of  
4 status indicators in a circular pattern, each said status  
5 indicator of said plurality of status indicators defined  
6 in said view by an inner diameter, an outer diameter and

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7 a length, whereby said length is associated with said  
8 status of said particular hierarchical operation.

1 29. The computer program product of Claim 27, wherein  
2 the second instructions comprise sub-instructions for  
3 arranging each said status indicator of said plurality of  
4 status indicators in a circular pattern, each said status  
5 indicator of said plurality of status indicators defined  
6 in said view by an inner diameter, an outer diameter and  
7 a length, whereby said length is associated with said  
8 status of said particular hierarchical operation, said  
9 inner diameter and said outer diameter defining a width  
10 for said each said status indicator, and whereby said  
11 width is adjustable for at least one of said each said  
12 status indicator so as to maintain a substantially  
13 constant diameter for said circular pattern.

1 30. The computer program product of Claim 27, wherein  
2 the hierarchical operation comprises at least one of an  
3 operation for copying elements of a directory tree,  
4 installing software, and scanning digital files for at  
5 least one virus.